the Scheduled Castes. This does not require consultation with the State Governments/ U.T. Administrations as there is no fresh inclusion of communities in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes.

(c) No specific time-limit can be given.

Upliftment of Backward Classes

1617. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any plans and programmes under consideration of Government to uplift the status of Backward Classes ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) The Government of India, vide OM dated 13th August, 1990 and OM dated 25th September, 1991 have provided reservation of 27% of the vacancies in civil posts and services to be filled by direct recruitment under the Government of India for Socially, Educationally Backward Classes. Preference will be given to candidates belonging to the poorer sections of the SEBCs. In case sufficient number of such candidates are not available, unfilled vacancies shall be filled by the other SEBC candidates.

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation has been incorporated on 13-1-1992 as a company not for profit under Section 25 of the Companies, Act, 1956 with an authorised share capital of Rs. 200 Crores. It has a Paid up capital of Rs. 25 Crores. The objectives of the Corporation are reproduced below :—

(i) to promote economic & developmental activities for the benefit of Backward Classes ;

(ii) to assist, subject to such income and/or economic criteria as may be prescribed by the Government from time to time, individuals or groups of individuals belonging to Backward Classes by way of loans and advances for economically and financially viable schemes and projects ;

(iii) to promote self-employment and other ventures for the benefit of Backward Classes ;

(iv) to grant concessional finances in selected cases for persons belonging to Backward Classes below the poverty line in the country in collaboration with the Government/ Ministries/Departments at the National and State Level to the extent of the budgetary assistance granted by the Government of India to the Company ;

(v) to extend loans for pursuing general/professional/technical education or training at graduate and higher levels ;

(vi) to assist in the upgradation of technical and entero-reneurial skills of Backward Classes for proper and efficient management of production units ;

(vii) to assist the State level organisation to deal with the development of backward classes by way of providng financial assistance and in obtaining commercial funding by way of refinancing ;

(viii) to work as an apex institutions for coordination and monitoring the work of all Corporations/Boards set up by the State Government/UT Administrations for SC/ST, Backward Clases and Minorities in so as far as it relates to the economic development of the backward classes.

(ix) to help in furthering the Government policies and programmes for the development of the backward classes.

Catholic Relief Services

1618. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Catholic Relief Services, New Delhi